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(DONOVAN)

NORTON, VA.--ATTORNEY CARL MC AFEE SAID TODAY HE AND JAMES DONOVAN, COURT-APPOINTED LAWYER FOR CONVICTED SOVIET SPY RUDOLF ABEL, INITIATED THE IDEA OF EXCHANGING ABEL FOR FRANCIS GARY POWERS.

MC AFEE, A FRIEND OF POWERS' PARENTS, SAID HE AND DONOVAN HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE IN 12 TO 13 LETTERS AND TELEPHONE CALLS SINCE THE FLIER'S ESPIONAGE TRIAL IN AUGUST, 1960. HE SAID HE WAS LAST IN TOUCH WITH DONOVAN IN SEPTEMBER.

"THE IDEA OF THE EXCHANGE ORIGINATED HERE," MC AFEE SAID. HE ADDED HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ANY EXCHANGE BECAUSE HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD ADMIT, TACITLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT ABEL WAS ITS AGENT.

MC AFEE AND ALEX W. PARKER, RICHMOND, VA. ATTORNEY, ACCOMPANIED THE POWERS FAMILY TO THE TRIAL IN MOSCOW.

PARKER SAID THE IDEA OF AN EXCHANGE WAS CONSIDERED BEFORE THE TRIAL, BUT "WE WERE TOLD IN WASHINGTON WE WERE NOT TO MAKE ANY EFFORT" IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THE RELEASE.

MC AFEE SAID HIS DEALINGS WITH DONOVAN WERE OUTSIDE ANY OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON.

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